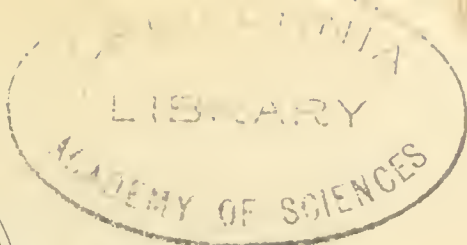
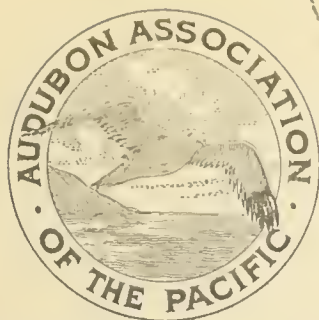


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THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

VOLUME 6

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JUNE, 1924

NUMBER 6

JUNE MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 12th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner of McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The feature of the evening will be an address by Mrs. M. E. Delport on "Some Bird Observations at Glenbrook and Fallen Leaf, in the Tahoe District." Visitors will be made welcome.



JUNE FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, June 15th, to Tennessee Cove and the high bluffs overlooking the ocean, for a half-mile northerly therefrom. We shall again hope for the colony of Baird cormorants, and that the fog will keep away while we are searching for them.

Take 8:15 a. m. Sausalito Ferry and purchase round-trip tickets to Manzanita, 48c. Bring lunch and canteens, as there is no drinking water at luncheon place.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY MEETING: The eighty-eighth regular meeting of the Association was held on May 8th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Carl R. Smith, Secretary; thirteen members and four guests in attendance.

The business of the meeting consisted of the discussion and adoption of a resolution presented by Mr. Lastreto, endorsing the Willis bill for the control of pollution from oil, originating not only from floating vessels, but as well from land sources.

The feature of the evening was a lecture by Prof. John O. Snyder, of the Department of Zoology of Stanford University on "Some Possible Results of Bird Banding."

Reference was made by the lecturer to what might be termed the three stages of ornithological progress up to the present time: First, the Colonial, characterized by pictures of birds in ponderous tomes, such as those produced by Audubon and Bachman. Second, the Popularizing period, following 1850, in which the labors of such men as Baird, Coues, and others engaged on the governmental railroad surveys awakened and developed interest in this branch of science, and laid the foundation for the Third, or the stage of Exactitude, wherein the work of Merriam, Allen, Ridgway and many others resulted in the building-up of great collections in museums, in the development of classifications, and in contributions to the solution of the problem of migrations. Coming to the present, the collecting of birds has, in a broad general sense, reached its climax of usefulness in what may be termed the civilized portions of the earth, and ornithology has, in a sense, become static.

In this situation, bird-banding appears as a new tool, offering the promise of a mass of new facts and a new impetus toward the solution of problems, ancient and baffling. It may then properly be considered that we are entering upon a new stage, with fascinating opportunities and possibilities. The records of the banding and the recapture of definite individuals will serve to determine an infinite variety of unsettled questions concerning the movements, affiliations, habits, range and migrations of birds. The work is simple and light, and can be carried on by anyone who is competent to identify the species and willing to undertake the interesting task.

Bird migrations,—an ancient and persisting mystery, mentioned in the Bible, and engaging the attentions of men ever since! Much nonsense has been overcome, but some persists. Some thought the birds went to the moon. Mittendorf thought they were seeking the magnetic pole! Others thought that they hibernated, the swallows burying themselves in mud through the winter! Others thought that the glacial epoch influenced migrations, but the birds have not changed materially since that time. Some thought that the routes were determined by the guidance of old birds; others, that sight alone served to guide the swarms.

The king salmon is a fresh water fish. When the hatched young have reached the stage of fingerlings, some of them put to sea; others remain in their native stream for a year and then put to sea and disappear. Two, four or seven years are spent in the ocean, maturing, and they return to fresh water to breed and then die. Prof. Snyder described the details of the experiments through which it was demonstrated that, without parental or any other guidance which we can conceive, these fish invariably return to the very streams where they were hatched and from which they started on their great adventure. Identification was effected by snipping two of the fins of each fish, and furthermore by critical analyses of the development of the scales. In comparison, the identification of banded birds is simplicity itself.

Following expressions of appreciation of the highly interesting narrative, the meeting adjourned.



The Board of Directors assembled after the meeting and elected to membership Mr. Arthur H. Myers of Berkeley. Mr. H. V. Gruening was elected to membership in April.



SEEN IN THE HEADLIGHT BEAMS

Identifying birds and other animals by the aid of headlights has been extremely difficult for me and I have been successful in very few instances in spite of the fact that it is often necessary for me to make long night drives.

The first and only time I ever crossed Lake County was in the night, entering the county above Ukiah and coming out into the Sacramento valley near Williams, just at dawn. From what I saw, I should judge that Lake County is largely treeless but heavily covered with brush and growth of this sort seems to concentrate the light upon the road and thus facilitates observation.

I saw the dusky poor-will in great numbers. They cut across the lights so close that one could see the white marking on their tails. Two barn owls and numbers of night-flying small birds crossed my path. By eleven o'clock there was a notable decrease in bird travel and by midnight it had completely ceased. At 1:20 a. m. a rabbit jumped into the road and froze in the light. A second later a bob-cat pounced upon it and if that cat's tail had been any longer than the first part of its name, I surely would have run over it, but he took the rabbit.

The highway through Gaviota Pass follows one canyon wall until it reaches the narrow part, where it passes over a short bridge and follows the other wall. One night, about ten o'clock, just as I made the turn and my lights loomed bright against the dark rocks of the farther side, a rabbit bounded into view at the end of the bridge and down out of the darkness above it there dropped a great something which at that instant seemed to me to be six feet long. My brakes shrieked and the great horned owl missed his dinner as my presence evidently disconcerted him.

Last Fall, near Willits, a doe and two fawns were in the road. I stopped, and the doe walked off and fell to grazing in a near-by meadow but the fawns were curious. They kept working nearer and as I was down-wind from them they approached to within fifteen or twenty feet of me. There seemed to be considerable difference in their ages, one still showing the spots. Occasionally a coon put in his appearance and once, a mountain lion but thanks to Mr. Bruce, they are becoming scarce.

I mention these instances to show that our state still has a goodly share of wild life and I, for one, hope that our laws will be so administered as to preserve the mammals as well as the birds.

CARL R. SMITH.

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Audubon's Birthday, May 4th, was brought to the attention of radio listeners through General Electric Company's Station KGO, whence a brief account of his life was broadcast by President Kibbe, on the invitation of the Company.

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BOOK NOTICES

BIRDS OF ALABAMA. By Arthur H. Howell, Assistant Biologist, U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. Issued in co-operation with the Bureau by the Department of Game and Fisheries of Alabama. 384 pp. 7 full page halftones and 31 full page cuts. Quotes state records and describes general habits and food habits of each species, with comments on economic status. Lists 314 forms and concludes with a ten-page bibliography. This is substantially a continuation of North American Fauna No. 45.

BIRDS AND THEIR ATTRIBUTES. Under this title the Marshall Jones Co., of Boston, are planning to publish the series of lectures delivered by Glover M. Allen, Secretary of the Boston Society of Natural History to members of the New England Bird Banding Association last year. The book is to be fully illustrated. Its character and scope will be described for the benefit of our members upon publication, which is now planned for September.

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MAY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 11th, to Golden Gate Park, under the leadership of Mrs. Ynes Mexia. The day was fine, bright and cool. Starting from the entrance at 43d Ave. and Fulton St., the usual route was followed, with frequent detours to the many nests of humming birds which had previously been located by the leader. The feature of the day was the number of these nests and the completeness of the series, which furnished object lessons in all stages and varieties. No less interesting was the nest of a quail which was just bringing off her brood. A nesting robin was also observed at a distance.

With so much of interest in the early part of the trip, lunch was taken on an inviting point along Second lake. Numbers of individuals and species were not as large as usual, but the time passed rapidly and the lecture at the Academy of Sciences had commenced before the party reached there.

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A number of the members enjoyed the motion pictures of Yosemite, exhibited and explained by Supt. W. B. Lewis, who made the winter scenes and sports a special feature of the lecture.

Birds encountered were: On the Bay, Forster terns and sandpipers. In the Park, Pied-billed grebe, mallards and young, canvasback, ruddy in full plumage, ccots and young; quail and young, a flock of twenty six turkey vultures, red-shafted flicker, Allen hummers galors and eleven nests, black phoebe and western flycatcher; purple finch, linnet, green-back goldfinch, pine siskin and Nuttall sparrow; junco, song sparrow, San Francisco towhee, Hutton vireo, yellow warbler and Pacific salt marsh yellowthroat; pileolated warbler, Vigors wren, many chickadees and nests in Boy Scout boxes, russet-backed thrush and a nesting robin. Twenty nine species.

Members in attendance: Mesdemoiselles E. Ayer, Cohen, Fritts, Pettit and Schroder; Mesdames Kibbe, Mexia, Parry and Witt; Messrs. Kibbe and Parry. As guests, Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Phyllis Bastian, Dykes, Farrell, Hudson, Pringle, Simmons and Sulze; Mrs. Buckley; Mr. Burks, Dr. Goodman and Scouts Mendelsohn, Peiser and Ed. Wagner, of Troop 17. Eleven members and fourteen guests.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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